

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 05092 150903Z

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1673

S E C R E T SEOUL 5092

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJ: ROKG MOVES FORWARD TO RESOLVE KIM DONG-JO ISSUE

REF: A) STATE 143278, B) SEOUL 4891, C) SEOUL 4961

1. THE FOREIGN MINISTER INFORMED ME THIS AFTERNOON, JUNE 15, THAT INSTRUCTIONS WERE BEING SENT TO AMBASSADOR KIM TO ARRANGE A FURTHER MEETING WITH MR JAWORSKI TO WORK OUT DETAILS OF THE LETTER EXCHANGE. THIS PROCEDURE HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THE PRESIDENT, WE BELIEVE LATE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, AND HAS HIS APPROVAL. THE FOREIGN MINISTER CONTINUED TO EXPRESS CONCERN THAT WHAT JAWORSKI WAS SEEKING WAS AN INITIAL STATEMENT FROM KIM DONG-JO, ONE WHICH HE COULD THEN USE AS A BASIS FOR CRITICISM AND QUESTIONS. THE ROK POSITION WILL BE THAT THE EXCHANGE SHOULD BEGIN WITH THE SUBMISSION OF QUESTIONS FROM JAWORSKI TO WHICH KIM WILL PROVIDE A RESPONSE. SINCE THIS AGREES WITH JAWORSKI'S SCENARIO AS WE UNDERSTAND IT (REF A), I ASSURED THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT I THOUGHT THIS WAS AN ENTIRELY LOGICAL WAY OF PROCEEDING. THE FOREIGN MINISTER DID NOT INDICATE ANY TIME RECOMMENDATION ON THE MEETING WITH JAWORSKI AND SINCE I UNDERSTAND HE HAS RETURNED TO WASHINGTON I AM HOPEFUL THAT A MEETING WILL STILL BE POSSIBLE DURING THIS WEEK.

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2. THE FOREIGN MINISTER FURTHER ADVISED ME THAT KIM DONG-JO WILL VERY SHORTLY BE RESIGNING HIS POSITION IN THE BLUE HOUSE. THIS MATTER ALSO HAS THE APPROVAL OF THE PRESIDENT WHICH SHOULD OVERCOME KIM'S FOOT-DRAGGING OVER HIS DEPARTURE. THE FOREIGN MINISTER STATED THAT KIM WOULD BE RESPONDING TO JAWORSKI'S QUERIES AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN.

3. COMMENT: THE DECISION TO TAKE THIS FINAL STEP WAS
CLEARLY NOT AN EASY ONE FOR THE ROKG. NOW THAT IT HAS
BEEN MADE, HOWEVER, I BELIEVE ALL CONCERNED ARE INTERESTED
IN FINISHING UP THE MATTER AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.
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